

Retiring or leaving service during COVID-19

Posted: August 18, 2021

With the recently announced requirement for state and county workers to submit their COVID-19 vaccination status, the Employees' Retirement System is providing answers to some frequently asked questions related to retirement and leaving service. The ERS encourages employees to contact the ERS when considering a change in job status.

Retirement

Q: How do I know if I am eligible to retire?

A: Age and years of service requirements for retirement may differ for a Hybrid, Noncontributory or Contributory member. Retirement information, including requirements, and the packet of retirement forms are on the Retirement Planning page of the ERS website:

<u>https://ers.ehawaii.gov/members/planning-for-retirement</u>. You may use the Active Member Information link at the website https://ers.ehawaii.gov/member/login.html or contact the ERS for service information.

Q: How can I calculate an estimate of my retirement benefit?

A: The ERS website has a retirement benefits calculator for members to use at https://ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/benefits-calculator.

Q: What are the deadlines for filing for retirement?

A: For members or former members who are eligible or nearing retirement eligibility, a retirement date can be the first of the month and on Dec. 31. An application can be filed as early as 150 days prior and not fewer than 30 days before the retirement date. Lists of the filing windows for 2021 and 2022 are at https://ers.ehawaii.gov/members/planning-for-retirement.

Leaving Employment

Q: What should I know about my ERS benefits if I am no longer employed by the state or county? (i.e. unused sick leave, years of service, retirement contributions, etc.)

A: Before leaving employment, please contact the ERS for up-to-date information on your retirement benefits eligibility and to confirm the ERS has your correct address and contact information. More details are at https://ers.ehawaii.gov/members/leaving-employment.

Contacting ERS

ERS offices are located on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii island and are open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except State Holidays. The ERS call center can be reached at 808-586-1735, or by email: dbf.ers.sss@hawaii.gov. Full contact information: https://ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/contact-us